

NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire
and Isle of Ely

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

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B. W. M. Macartney

D. Howells

B. M., B. Ch., M. F. C. M., D. P. H., D. C. H.

F. A. P. H. I., M. I. P. H. E., M. R. S. H.

Medical Officer of Health

Chief Public Health Inspector

Shire Hall,

Council Offices, Park Lane

Cambridge.

Newmarket

Tel. No. Cambridge 58811

Tel. No. Newmarket 2362

GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	80, 856 acres
Water	245 acres
Number of Parishes	22
Rateable Value (1. 4. 73)	£2, 109, 604
Sum represented by a new penny rate for the year	£6, 804
Estimated number of inhabited houses	8, 650
Estimated mid-year Home Population	24, 120
Census Population 1971	23, 786

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- * Col. D. R. B. Kaye, D. S. O., J. P. (Chairman)
- * K. P. Leonard (Vice-Chairman - Chairman,
Public Health Committee)

- * E. Cooper Bland
- * E. Bowers
- * P. J. Bridge
- D. T. Camish
- Mrs. M. R. Cook
- Rev'd R. J. Davies
- * F. S. Fuller
- * A. S. Gathercole
- * W. J. Gidney
- * Rev'd J. B. Goodchild
- * Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart
- C. P. Hurrell
- A. S. Kent
- R. A. Lambert
- * D. K. Maclarens
- * J. A. Newport
- C. R. Osbourn
- * H. Palmer, J. P.
- * Mrs. G. M. McMinnies-Scott
- Mrs. J. O'N. Smith
- Mrs. B. A. Taylor
- K. A. Trinder
- * Mrs. H. J. Waddilove
- * L. G. Warren
- R. C. Wells
- * Mrs. M. West

(* Member of Public Health Committee)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	B. W. M. Macartney, B. A., B. M., B. Ch., M. F. C. M., D. P. H., D. C. H., D. (Obst.) R. C. O. G.
Chief Public Health Inspector	D. Howells, F. A. P. H. I., M. I. P. H. E., M. R. S. H.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	F. H. Mason, A. R. S. H. J. Townsend, A. R. S. H.
Clerk	Miss G. M. White

To the Chairman and Members of the
Newmarket Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report for 1972 marks the end of an era. The Public Health Act 1872 brought into being Urban and Rural District Councils, designated them Sanitary Authorities and required all districts to appoint a Medical Officer of Health.

The Local Government Act 1972 amalgamates Urban and Rural Districts into County Districts and makes no mention of the Medical Officer of Health who disappears in the National Health Service Act 1973.

So closes a century of no mean achievement - drinking water is pure, food is safe, housing increasingly improved and the disposal of common pollutants increasingly controlled. The advances have been costly to win and will not be easy to maintain. Indeed the threat from pollutants is greater today than ever before and the community needs and will need a strong environmental health department with staff who are not only highly skilled technically but who are by training almost intuitively alert to potential health hazard situations.

At this late stage in human history we are realising that the natural resources of the earth are not inexhaustible and the survival of man will at least partly depend on a much more careful stewardship than he has customarily exercised both as to use and abuse. Strangely in an age which, at least in Western Society, largely spurns the freedom of discipline, preferring the slavery of permissiveness, it can be increasingly clearly seen that it is unwise to do anything on the grounds that it has not been shown to be hazardous, and altogether necessary to do only that which has been shown to be safe. The road to advance - indeed to survival - will be costly. It always has been.

I am not convinced that the present inevitable preoccupation with reorganisation is entirely without disadvantage. Perhaps it is but the morbid fear of a nearly extinct Medical Officer of Health that while we are all learning to play our new fiddles, Rome may burn. The value of any machine, administrative or otherwise, is not so much in the excellance of its structure as in the nature and competence of the work that it produces. There seems to me to be a real danger in the new National Health Service that we will all be so busy passing responsibility and accountability upwards and downwards that we will have little time to seize the opportunities to improve the service to community and individual which is allegedly at least part of the point of the exercise.

Those with administrative aptitudes will find in the new machine complexities to challenge their greatest powers. Hopefully they will not be overwhelmed.

From the individual patient's point of view there will be no change, the same general practitioner and the same hospital will provide the same services which, it is to be hoped, will improve with greater or lesser rapidity. This will depend on how well the new Regional and Area Health Authorities and the District Management Teams identify, analyse and measure the real health and illhealth needs of the populations that they serve and how firm a stand they are able to maintain against the many entrenched vested interests.

I do not see the proposed Community Health Councils as simply a sop to local democracy. If they are seen in this light they will easily become no more than a source of irritation instead of the well of initiative that is their potential.

Members will be aware that the new District Council is required to nominate a "proper doctor" whose main responsibility will be to advise and act in respect of the control of the spread of infectious disease. The Local Government Act 1972 simply requires that this "proper doctor" should be a registered medical practitioner. With or without any appropriate amendment to the National Health Service Act 1973 it is to be hoped that all District Councils will chose to nominate a doctor with appropriate post graduate experience and will seek the advice of the Area Health Authority on this matter.

Vital Statistics and Infectious Disease

The population of the District continues to increase slowly and while the birth and death rates do show some change they are still both just below the National rate as they were in 1971.

Deaths from malignant disease maintain their level accounting for 20% of deaths and some 25% of these are due to lung cancer; 14 out of the 15 cases occurring in men.

Deaths from ischaemic heart disease have increased by 30% and accounted for 30% of all deaths.

Very few cases of infectious disease were notified in 1972.

The Environment

The Chief Public Health Inspector has written his usual excellant report which is this year even more remarkable in the light of the heavy additional burdens he has borne on account of the work associated with the reorganisation of local government.

His report particularly underlines the District Council's very fine regard for housing improvements.

It also reveals this Council's ability to keep well to the fore in the provision of local government services. Amongst the first to provide plastic bin liners and to organise a joint pulverisation and disposal scheme, it has more recently provided a realistic means for collecting bulky household refuse.

Department of Health and Social Security circular 1/73 specifically requires me to record that the water supplies to the District naturally contain between 0.1 to 0.3 p. p. m. fluoride, which is unfortunately insufficient to affect the dental health of the people.

The Chief Public Health Inspector's report deserves to be read in its entirity and it is unnecessary for me to make further comment.

It has been a pleasure to work for the Council and Public Health Committee for the last five years.

I particularly wish to record my thanks to Mr. Howells for the unstinting co-operation and help that I have always received and naturally my thanks also extend to every staff member of the department that he leads.

The multiple reorganisations that presently engulf us can fairly be likened to "gales of change" and as, perforce, I must change ships in mid-sea, I wish well to those members and especially the staff whom I leave that, successfully riding out the storm, they may find quieter waters in which to sail in future years.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. W. M. Macartney

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for
the statistical calculations)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate	168	146	314
Illegitimate	4	9	13
	172	155	327
Birth rate per thousand estimated population			13.6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.02)			13.9
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			14.8
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	1	1
Rate per thousand live and still births			3.0
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)			12.0
<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	145	142	287
Death rate per thousand estimated population			11.9
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.97)			11.5
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			12.1
Infant mortality (deaths of infants under one year of age)	2	-	2
Infant mortality rate (infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)			21.0
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)			17.0
Neonatal mortality rate (infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)			15.0
Early neonatal mortality rate (infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)			15.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)			18.0
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births			19.0
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births			77.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			4%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)			NIL
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births			NIL
Deaths from cancer (all ages)		(52)	55
Deaths from ischaemic heart disease		(63)	86

(1971 figures in brackets)

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1972

Age in Years	Food Poisoning	Measles	Pulmonary T. B.	Scarlet Fever	Total
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	1
1 -	-	2	-	-	2
2 - 4	-	1	-	2	3
5 - 9	-	6	-	1	7
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	1	1
25 - 44	2	1	-	-	3
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	1	-	1
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	11	1	4	18

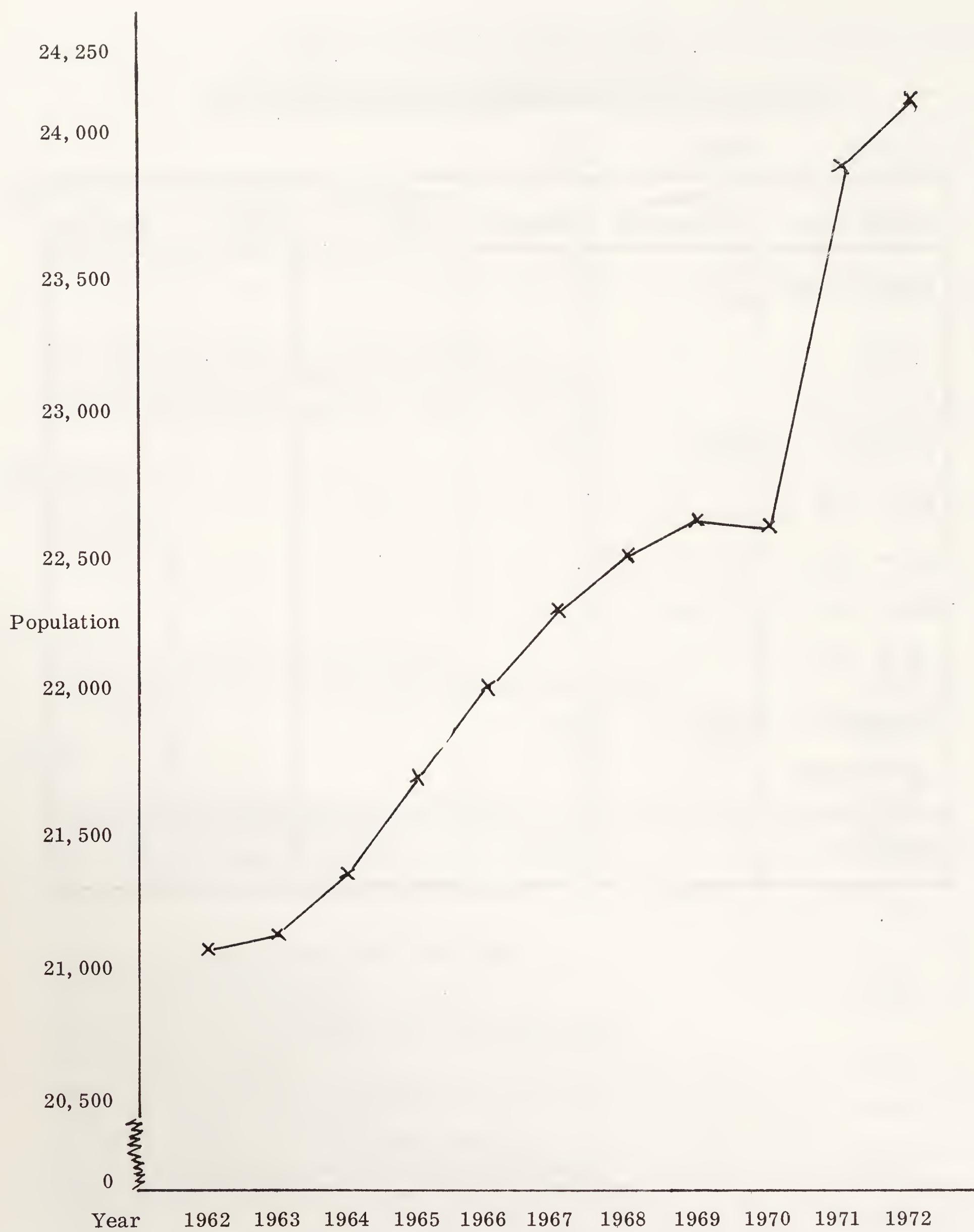


Fig. 1

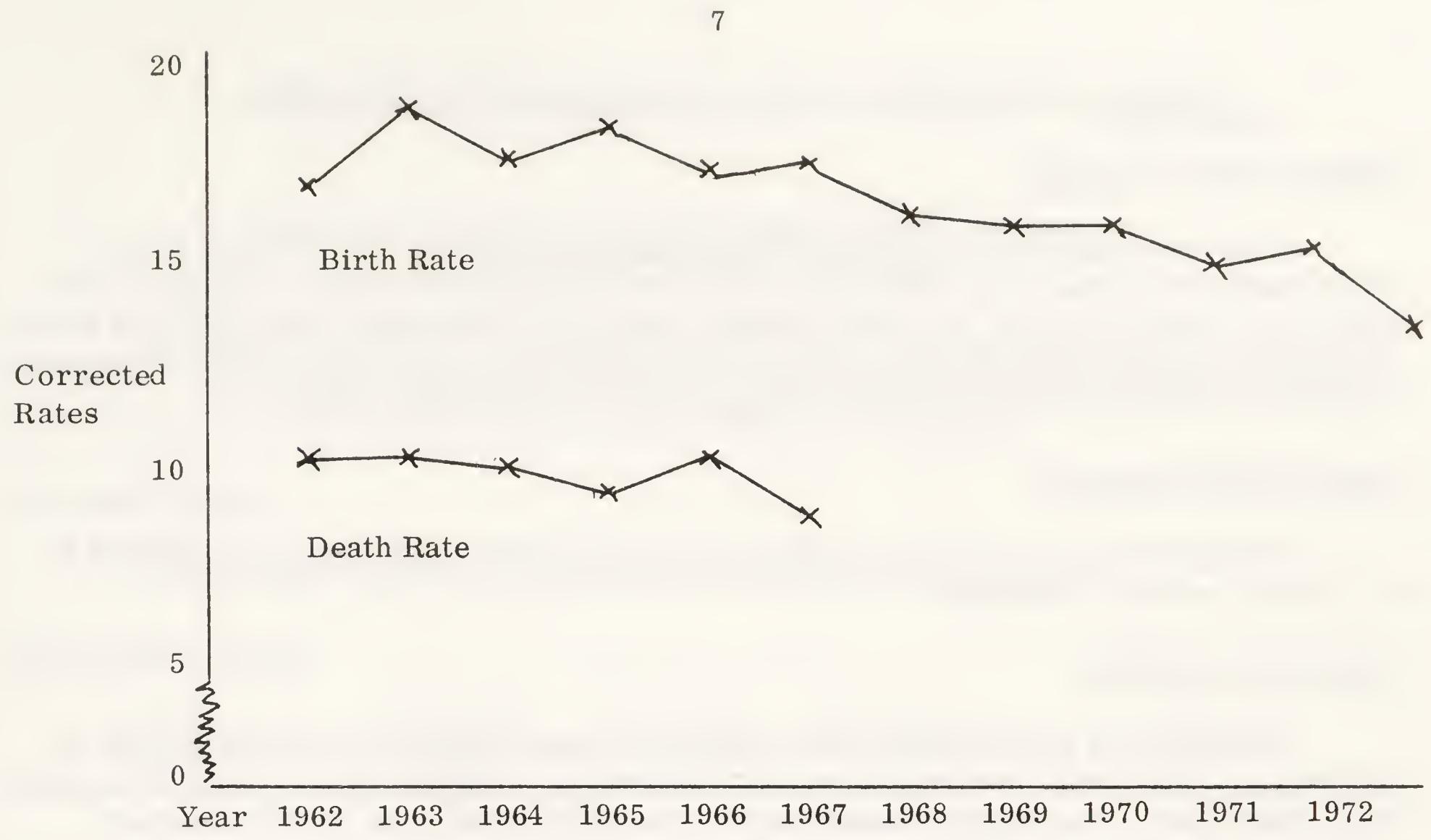


Fig. 2

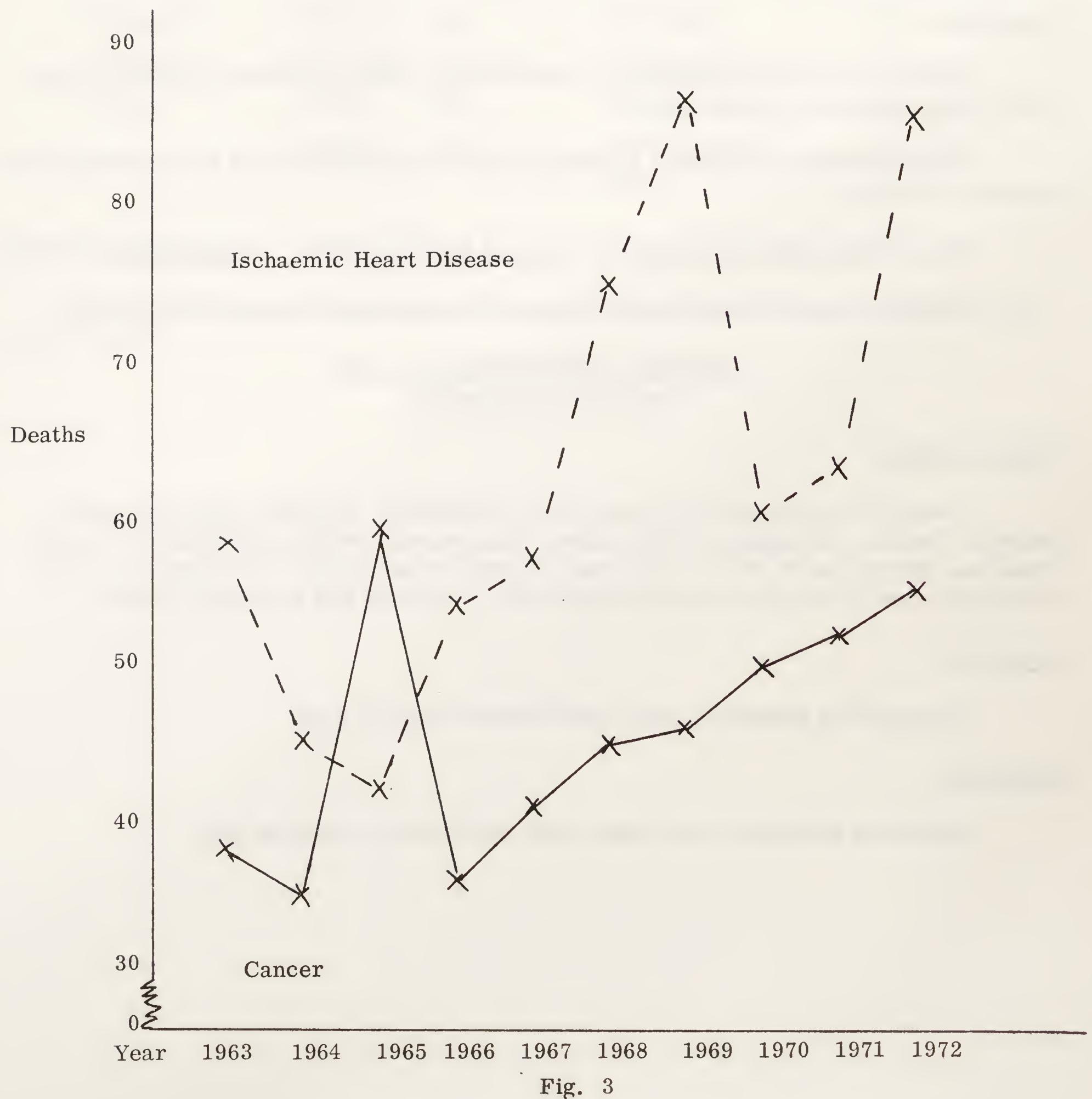


Fig. 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

Under arrangements made by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council under Section III of the Local Government Act, 1933, the Medical Officer of Health to the Ely Urban District Council, Ely Rural District Council and Newmarket Rural District Council is combined with the appointment of Senior Medical Officer to the County Council by securing for the appointment a full time Medical Officer from 1st September, 1968.

Public Health Inspectors

During the year Mr. Howell continued as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason and Mr. Townsend.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all the necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals in the District, which is served by hospitals of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS; 1953 and 1968

It was not necessary to take any formal action under this section during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 31 (as amended)

Meals on Wheels

A meals on wheels service is provided in Bottisham, Brinkley, Burrough Green, Burwell, Carlton, Dullingham, Lode, Soham, Stetchworth, Swaffham Bulbeck and Westley Waterless through the W.R.V.S. and other voluntary organisations. Our thanks are due to the many people who give so much of their time to provide this invaluable service.

Section 47

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

Section 50

Action was necessary in one case under this Section during the year.

APPENDIX

NURSING SERVICES FOR NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT
PROVIDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL

The trend of nursing is towards team work rather than nurses working on individual districts. Nurses and health visitors are now being attached wherever possible to general practitioners and midwifery is being mainly undertaken in hospitals.

Ante Natal Care

At home and at surgeries by general practitioners and midwives.

Child Health Clinics

Tuesday	Bottisham	1st and 3rd	The Surgery	3.00 p.m.
	Burwell	2nd and 4th	Gardiner Memorial Hall	2.30 p.m.
	Soham	every week	Health Centre	2.00 p.m.
Wednesday	Cheveley	1st	Flint Hall	3.00 p.m.
Thursday	Dullingham	1st	Taylor Hall	2.30 p.m.
Friday	Isleham	1st	Village Hall	3.00 p.m.
	Fordham	3rd	Congregational Hall	2.45 p.m.

Educational Classes

Education classes for parents and others are arranged as required by midwives and health visitors.

R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. HOWELLS, F. A. P. H. I., M. I. P. H. E., M. R. S. H.,

Chief Public Health Inspector, Newmarket Rural District Council,
Council Offices, Park Lane, Newmarket.

Tele. No: Newmarket 2362

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1972:-

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	583
Bakehouses	22
Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	132
Canteens and Cafes	72
Licensed Premises	124
Food Vehicles	27
Miscellaneous Food Premises	382
Offices and Shops Act Visits	98
Factories	12
Public Cleansing	198
Infectious Disease Enquiries	24
Drainage and Amenity Surveys	754
Caravan Sites	103
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	360
Re-Improvement Grants	474
Water Supply	102
Swimming Pools	119
Nuisances (including re-visits)	101
Noise Abatement	1
Schools	12
Animal Boarding Establishments	5
Clean Air Act	7
Civic Amenities Act	118
Miscellaneous	<u>176</u>
	4, 006

Number of samples taken:-

Drinking Water	59
Specimens Collected	24
Informal Notices Served	32
Statutory Notices Served	1

PARISH STATISTICS

Parish	Acreage	Population (1971 Census)	Rateable Value at 1. 4. 73
ASHLEY	2, 225	459	39, 785
BOTTISHAM	2, 854	1, 673	181, 643
BRINKLEY	1, 303	355	27, 717
BURROUGH GREEN	2, 272	268	19, 560
BURWELL	7, 010	4, 032	409, 266
CHEVELEY	2, 559	1, 746	147, 033
CHIPPENHAM	4, 301	352	29, 250
DULLINGHAM	3, 387	501	41, 725
FORDHAM	4, 331	1, 969	181, 594
ISLEHAM	5, 230	1, 456	85, 451
KENNEDT	1, 431	312	49, 152
KIRTLING	3, 126	304	42, 340
LODE	3, 133	641	45, 769
REACH	1, 134	249	14, 871
SNAILWELL	2, 034	176	15, 320
SOHAM	12, 999	5, 431	447, 125
STETCHWORTH	2, 891	494	42, 288
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4, 110	715	62, 574
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4, 889	683	52, 365
WESTLEY	1, 149	134	8, 666
WICKEN	3, 965	613	36, 583
WOODDITTON	4, 768	1, 223	101, 175
GAS			
ELECTRICITY)			
DISTRIBUTION)			
ELECTRICITY)			
GENERATING)			28, 352
TOTALS	81, 101	23, 786	2, 109, 604

HOUSINGHouses not included in Clearance Areas

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS

(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	28
(2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957	NIL
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	NIL
(4) Houses on which Demolition Orders were made	4
REPAIRS	
HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED	
(5) After informal action by Local Authority	38
(6) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners	NIL
(b) by Local Authority	NIL
(7) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1957	
(a) by owner	NIL
(b) by Local Authority	NIL

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST WAR PERIOD

	Demolished		Outstanding Orders on Existing Houses			Parts of Buildings Closed	Purchased by N. R. D. C.	D. O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	D. O's.	C. O's	U/T			
ASHLEY	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
BOTTISHAM	48	12	-	-	1	-	5	15
BRINKLEY	13	-	-	-	-	-	9	1
BURROUGH								
GREEN	18	-	-	-	1	-	13	-
BURWELL	63	-	1	2	4	-	-	10
CHEVELEY	16	-	-	3	-	-	-	2
CHIPPENHAM	8	-	1	-	-	-	2	1
DULLINGHAM	31	-	-	-	1	-	8	2
FORDHAM	38	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
ISLEHAM	56	-	5	5	4	-	-	5
KENNETT	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
KIRTLING	6	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
LODE	16	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
REACH	11	-	3	-	-	-	-	2
SNAILWELL	8	37	-	1	-	-	-	2
SOHAM	117	-	8	2	4	2	-	6
STETCHWORTH	11	-	-	1	-	-	4	-
SWAFFHAM								
BULBECK	21	-	2	3	1	-	-	5
SWAFFHAM								
PRIOR	18	-	7	-	-	-	7	4
WESTLEY								
WATERLESS	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WICKEN	20	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
WOODDITTON	24	-	2	-	-	-	4	5
TOTALS	572	49	31	17	25	3	52	66

New Dwellings

During the year, 191 dwellings were constructed by private enterprise and the Council built 8 dwellings.

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1963	33	145	178
1964	64	211	275
1965	62	244	306
1966	42	180	222
1967	45	200	245
1968	8	169	177
1969	10	112	122
1970	26	151	177
1971	4	162	166
1972	8	191	199
TOTAL	302	1,765	2,067

Housing of Old People

It is proposed to construct old persons' grouped bungalows at Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck and Burrough Green to supplement the schemes which have operated for several years.

Council Houses

All Council houses, including pre-war dwellings, are provided with bathrooms and flush toilets and many tenants now enjoy partial central heating following the modernization scheme which was completed in 1970. The Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. A. Grant, is responsible for housing management and the building of new dwellings.

Housing Improvements - Housing Act, 1969

Applications for grants, costing, committee reports and completion certificates form part of the housing duties of the public health department. The following were reported during 1972:-

(a) Number of applications received for Standard Grant	28
Standard Grant applications approved	26
Number of applications received for Improvement Grants (discretionary)	42
Improvement Grants approved	45

(b) Number of houses on which improvement grants have been paid:-

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Discretionary Grants	36	24	22	25	23
Standard Grants	44	41	47	37	41

(c) Amount paid in grants	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Discretionary Grants	£25, 325	£10, 439	£9, 257	£8, 320	£7, 785
Standard Grants	£9, 379	£8, 954	£10, 064	£7, 799	£8, 202

(d) Average Discretionary Grant during 1972 £703 per house
 Average Standard Grant during 1972 £213 per house

(e) Number of Properties improved since the scheme came into operation:-

Discretionary Grants	808
Standard Grants	<u>558</u>
	<u>1, 366</u>

(f) Amount paid on above:-

Discretionary Grants	£227, 185
Standard Grants	97, 745

These figures do not include 706 Council dwellings which have been modernised with the aid of grants. No housing improvement areas have been declared.

The above figures indicate a sharp increase in the number of completed improvement grant schemes.

The Council contribution is 50% of the "approved expense" in the case of discretionary grants.

The 1971 census revealed that 85. 2% of the households in this rural area were provided with the exclusive use of hot water, a fixed bath and an inside water closet. This represents the highest percentage in the whole County with two exceptions where the figure was slightly higher and new development was on a large scale. Housing improvements will be given priority by the new Environmental Health Department following the birth of the East Cambridgeshire District.

There has been an increase in the number of owners of "Controlled" dwellings applying for qualification certificates to enable a "fair rent" to be charged.

Housing Act, 1969

Total applications for Qualification Certificates	61
Certificates granted	23

The outstanding applications call for property repairs before the certificate can be issued.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The following information summarises the licensing figures relating to residential caravans:-

New site licences granted	12
Site licences renewed	2
Site licences expired and not renewed	7
Planning refusals	2
Total number of occupied licence sites	39
Total number of vans permitted to occupy licensed sites	83

The touring site at the Rowley Mile Racecourse operated successfully from June to October. The facilities for 120 camping units includes excellent accommodation, showers, waste disposal unit, bar and good pitches on grass and tarmac for both touring caravans and tents. This site now forms part of a network of racecourse sites throughout the country.

Most of the sites are for single caravans and licences are usually granted for no longer than two years. The largest sites are at Soham, where two operators control 16 vans each. A site at Lode is licensed for five caravans. As stated in previous reports, a caravan is a very poor substitute for a family dwelling but the cost of new houses will result in more applications for caravan site licences.

Gypsies and other travellers have not created the problems one sees on roadside verges in some counties, although some 'regulars' pitch their belongings on minor roadside verges from time to time. Casual land workers arrive during the summer and some use small plots in the district as winter quarters but the figure does not give cause for concern. Three small touring sites where members of the Caravan Club make halts are exempt from licensing.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses

The small slaughterhouse at Fordham closed down during the year and the largest premises at Soham operated on a smaller scale, resulting in a reduction in the number of killings. The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 apply to the four licensed premises and regular visits are made by the Divisional Veterinary Officer. All carcasses and offal are inspected by the Additional Public Health Inspectors in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations. No charge is made for this service.

Tuberculosis was identified in the mesenteries of four pigs but this disease is no longer a hazard to the butcher.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in
Part during the Year 1972

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Horses
Number killed and inspected	289	1	1	1, 292	16	548	98	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>								
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Carcase on which some part of organ was condemned	29	1	-	48	2	5	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	10.03	100	-	3.79	12.5	0.98	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>								
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.31	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>								
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat and Offal Condemned

	Bovine	Sow	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Whole Carcase	-	-	1	-
Heads	1	-	1	-
Lungs	-	-	7	-
Livers	19	-	25	3
$\frac{1}{2}$ Livers	9	-	-	2
Hearts	1	1	20	-
Hocks	-	-	6	-
Trimmings	8 lbs.	-	-	-
Mesentery	-	-	4	-
Hind Leg	-	-	1	-
Tongue	1	-	-	-
Kidney	1	-	-	-
Leg	-	1	-	-

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-58

Slaughtermen's Licences renewed	-	15
New Licences issued	-	2
Licences not renewed	-	1

One of the licences was granted to a "learner" to cover slaughtering under supervision.

Not all licensed slaughtermen are actively engaged in slaughtering and some part-time men are licensed by other local authorities.

No action was necessary under Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958.

The Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969

These regulations, which require strict control over unfit meat, are effectively enforced. There is no licensed knacker's yard in the district.

Unsound Foodstuffs

The following complaints were investigated during the year:-

(a) Foreign body in cheese:

This was identified by the public analyst as a rat dropping. The matter was taken up immediately with the wholesalers but this food was packed by manufacturers on the Continent. However, the coding helped to trace the firm concerned and a hygiene check was made.

(b) Unsound sausages:

These sausages were manufactured on the 4th April, delivered on the 6th but not sold until the 12th, when they were found by the purchaser to be mouldy. The retailers gave this immediate attention and escaped with a warning from the Council.

(c) Foreign body in loaf:

This complaint referred to a piece of pencil in a sliced loaf of bread. The matter was taken up with the bakery concerned and appropriate preventive measures were adopted.

(d) Foreign body in pork pie:

The public analyst reported the finding of a fragment of plastic resembling an artificial fingernail. The manufacturers could not trace the source and no fault could be found in their hygiene code of practice.

(e) Dirty milk bottle:

This turned out to be mortar, accompanied by a hardened milk residue and no doubt the result of bottle abuse. The dairy precautions were reviewed.

(f) Two complaints about mould in vacuum packed cheddar cheese:

Minor defects in the plastic packs allowed air to enter and we were satisfied with the manufacturer's explanation.

(g) Six tins of Apple Pie Filling:

This complaint referred to discolouration brought about by chemical reaction between the product and the can. The canners gave immediate attention to the matter and stocks were checked at the premises of the wholesaler concerned.

(h) Foreign body in iced lolly:

The manufacturers were contacted but this very small object could not be identified.

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

4 tins corned beef
 5 tins gammon ham
 1 pork pie
 1 Meat and vegetable pie
 1 tin apple desert
 351 items frozen food.

Date Coding

Last year's report reviewed the shortcomings under this heading. Improvements are under way which should result in better stock rotation in the shops and more information to the purchaser of perishable foods.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

These Regulations apply to the following premises within the rural area:-

Bakehouses	7
Butchers	11
Grocers and General	52
Fish and Chips	2
Cafes and Snack Bars	3
Sweets and Confectionary	7
School and L. A. Kitchens	12
School Meals	13
Hotels	1
Factory Canteens	4
Licensed Premises	60
Racecourses	2
Supermarkets	2
Miscellaneous	6
	182

Routine inspections are made as frequently as possible with particular emphasis on premises where open food is handled.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

27 vehicles were inspected and owners' attention drawn to any deficiencies.

Registration of Food Premises

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

(a) Sausages and Cooked Meat Premises 23

(b) Fried Fish Shops	4
(c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	86

Three new registration certificates were issued during the year and 132 visits were made to the above premises.

Milk

All fourteen dairy farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and there are no registered dairies other than those attached to dairy farms. No action has been necessary under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Poultry

There are no poultry processing establishments within the area but most of the butchers dress poultry from time to time.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test.

Licensed Premises

124 visits were made to the 60 licensed premises in the area.

It was necessary to serve a statutory notice under Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936, calling for the provision of a satisfactory drainage system at a public house. The premises were subsequently connected to the public sewer. The sale of food from a few of the attached domestic kitchens gives us cause for concern and improvement proposals are going ahead at two premises.

Bakehouses

22 visits were made to the seven bakehouses in the area and these were found to be generally satisfactory.

Ice Cream

The 86 premises registered for the storage of ice cream receive regular attention when routine visits are made to various food premises.

Vegetable Washing Plants

There are 7 premises within the area used for the mechanical washing of carrots, celery or similar crops. At one plant, the washing water is obtained from an adjoining lake and chlorinated before use.

WATER SUPPLY

The Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board is responsible for the raising of water from underground sources, treatment, storage and distribution to all parishes in the rural area and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

17 Cottages at Chippenham still rely on public standpipes but improvement schemes are progressing slowly and this unsatisfactory arrangement will be eliminated.

81 dwellings have piped water from private sources which are sampled occasionally and found to be satisfactory, with two exceptions at Burwell where the main water supply is about to be extended.

Water Sampling during 1972

Sample	Mains Samples		Private Samples		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Bacteriological	37	1	16	4	58

Water Consumption

	Chippenham Pumping Station	Swaffham Prior Pumping Station	Bottisham Pumping Station	Lower Links Pumping Station
Average daily output over year	Gallons 457, 212	Gallons 109, 639	Gallons 146, 528	Gallons 196, 296

Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies

Test	Chippenham	Swaffham Prior	Bottisham	Lower Links
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction	pH 7.3	pH 8.2	pH 8.2	pH 7.2
Mg. per litre				
Chlorides	24	263	135	24
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Absent	0.015	0.25	0.015
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 27°C	0.35	0.45	0.35	0.35
Nitrate Nitrogen	6.6	0.4	0.20	6.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	0.090	Absent	Absent
Total Hardness	282	86	62	304
Iron	Absent	0.04	0.06	Absent
Fluoride	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.10
Bacteriological Examination				
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

754 visits were made in connection with the drainage of premises and the provision of basic amenities, excluding improvement grant advisory inspections. All new drains are examined and tested by the building inspector from the Engineer's department and a close liaison exists.

Soham

Extensions to the Soham sewage treatment plant was nearing completion at the end of the year and this will increase the capacity to serve a larger population.

Wicken and Upware

This scheme commenced in August and was proceeding satisfactorily at the end of the year.

Ashley, Cheveley and Woodditton

Work will commence on this scheme in mid 1973.

Kennett and Kentford

It is anticipated this scheme should be under way during 1973. The parish of Kentford will remain in Suffolk after 1st April, 1974.

Brinkley, Burrough Green and Westley Waterless

Design work is proceeding on this scheme.

Burwell

Design work is also proceeding on extensions to the Burwell sewage works, and the sludge dewatering plant will be finished during 1973.

Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act, 1972

Under the provisions of this Act, the Local Authority must be notified if certain offensive waste is to be removed from or brought into the area. The following notices were received during the year:-

Removal of waste oil from garages to sites outside the county	5
Removal of dangerous laboratory chemicals	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

All twenty-two parishes in the area have been provided with a weekly refuse collection service since 1959. The system has been improved by introducing the expendable sack system throughout and the area is covered by three teams consisting of three drivers and eight loaders. A new 'Revopak' vehicle joined the fleet in December and one obsolete vehicle was sold. This now ensures that an adequate "Pakamatic" vehicle is available as standby. In addition an old type vehicle is retained for the collection of bulky articles, paper and cardboard. All vehicles are now subject to thorough inspection under the Road Safety Act, 1967 (Section 9 - Plating and Testing).

Refuse Disposal

The following refuse was delivered to the pulverizer which is operated jointly with the adjoining Urban District:-

Tonnes Daily

	1972/73	1971/72
Summer	17. 795	15. 771
Winter	23. 054	22. 132
Average Tonnes Per Day	20. 424	18. 951

The number of loads of refuse increased by 10% over the previous financial year in spite of the more efficient compaction of the present vehicles.

The above figures, however, do not indicate the vast increase in the bulk of refuse collected and it became necessary to instruct the Work Study Officer to remeasure all rounds and adjust the labour force as required.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

Unauthorised dumping is regarded as a serious offence and our officers recorded 118 visits under this heading.

Abandoned Cars

Removed by owners on request	7
Removed by Council for destruction	5
Total cases investigated	12

Bulky Refuse

The Exning Road Depot provides facilities for the disposal of bulky household refuse and the Reach Pit, owned by the Council, is available for this purpose. The private pit at Dimmock's Cote, Upware is used by fly tippers but a nuisance is avoided by occasional bulldozing and covering and there has been a distinct improvement during the year.

The most important advance in this field took place in October when the Council provided a much larger than average steel container which is placed on suitable sites for the reception of old bedsteads, cycles, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators and similar domestic waste. Householders rapidly fill the container and it is cleared twice weekly. This scheme calls for expansion, following local government re-organisation. Numerous bulky articles are also collected by pick-up truck when a householder has a transport problem but the Council cannot undertake the removal of builder's refuse and similar trade waste.

Salvaged Materials

Some waste paper has been baled and sold but the demand has fallen during the last few years. The following figures indicate the cash return:-

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrts.	£	p
Waste Paper	13	9	2	115	89
Miscellaneous Iron	13	8	3	25	59
	26	18	1	141	48

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

7 Scrap Merchants are registered and the police are kept informed.

Cesspool Emptying

One 1,100 gallon "S & D" tanker is used for this purposes and for the desludging of smaller sewage disposal plants.

Clearances during the last five years

Year Ended March	Private		Council		Total Loads
	Cesspools Cleared	Loads	Cesspools and Sewage Plants Cleared	Loads	
1973	885	996	271	408	1,404
1972	817	952	303	490	1,442
1971	799	950	413	731	1,681
1970	807	949	696	1,185	2,134
1969	870	1,041	718	1,226	2,267

In unsewered areas, one free clearance per year is made on request and further clearances are charged at the flat rate of £1 per load. 545 cesspools and septic tanks were pumped out free of charge.

The Council considered the cancellation of all clearances in seweried areas but decided to raise the charge to £6 per load and continue the service for the present.

It will be noted the loads cleared from private cesspools has increased during the past four years. It is anticipated this figure will be reduced when current sewerage schemes are completed but, on the other hand, the modernization of dwellings outside the seweried areas will continue.

Statistics

It has not been possible to provide the usual costing information because the accounts had not been completed at the time of going to print. The following information is, however, submitted:-

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Total Mileage
Refuse Collected - loads
Fuel consumed:- gallons - Derv
Average miles per gallon

	March 1973	March 1972
Total Mileage	34,876	33,854
Refuse Collected - loads	1,087	985
Fuel consumed:- gallons - Derv	4,556	4,576
Average miles per gallon	7.6	7.4
Total Mileage	14,579	14,541
Number of loads cleared	1,404	1,442
Fuel consumed - gallons	1,244	1,256
Fuel consumed per load - gallons	0.89	0.87

Cesspool Emptying

Total Mileage
Number of loads cleared
Fuel consumed - gallons
Fuel consumed per load - gallons

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREAOffices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

At the end of the year, 104 premises, employing 357 persons, were entered in the public health department's register, as detailed below:-

Table A - Registrations		
Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year
Offices	1	29
Retail Shops	3	63
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	7
Fuel Storage Depots	-	2
Totals	4	103

B. Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises 98

Table C - Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace	
Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	126
Retail Shops	161
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	47
Catering Establishments open to the public	18
Canteens	1
Fuel Storage Depots	4
Total	357
Total Males	153
Total Females	204

Informal notices served during 1972 1

All offices attached to registered factories are excluded from the above figures because the inspection of these premises falls within the duties of H. M. Factory Inspectors.

Exemptions

No exemption certificates have been applied for during the year.

Accidents

No accidents were reported during the year.

Prosecutions

There have been no prosecutions for non-compliance with the Act during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools

119 visits have been made to the 18 school swimming pools in the area. All pools are provided with filtration and chlorination facilities and head teachers are supplied with comparators for the checking of free chlorine and pH. Spot checks are made by the public health inspectors as frequently as possible.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A full time Rodent Officer is employed on survey and treatment duties under the Act. This officer made 3,847 inspections and re-inspections during the year and dealt with 222 infestations. No statutory notices were served under Section 4 and no infestations were treated in default.

The free service to householders continued throughout the year and small business premises were treated for a nominal charge. Farm contracts are not undertaken.

The test baiting of sewer manholes was carried out in the following parishes:-

	<u>Manholes baited</u>	<u>Infested</u>
Stetchworth	4	-
Dullingham	23	-
Fordham	23	-
Cheveley	18	-
Bottisham	8	1

A second treatment rapidly cleared the minor infestation.

Disinfestation and Disinfection

The Rodent Officer dealt with complaints relating to the following:-

Fleas - 4 Flies - 1 Ants - 11

32 Wasps' nests were destroyed on request. A charge of 25p is made to private householders for this service.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence to keep a pet shop was granted during the year.

Infectious Disease

Twenty four visits were made by the public health inspectors in connection with notified diseases and 7 specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for routine examination.

Atmospheric Pollution

Atmospheric pollution is not a problem with which we have to contend. There is a close liaison with the Council's surveyor when an industrial project is contemplated and chimney height proposals are checked in the department.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are no premises registered in the area.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

One complaint was referred to the County Council for possible action under the Good Rule and Government Byelaws which deal with noisy animals among other nuisances.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Three establishments are licensed for the boarding of 25 dogs, 10 dogs, and 9 cats. Occasional visits are made to these premises and no action has been necessary. The licence to board 25 dogs at Ashley was withdrawn by the owner at the end of the year.

Radioactive Substances Act, 1960

No radioactive waste is received in the area under the provisions of the above Act and no firms using radioactive isotopes are registered.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1972 for the Rural District of Newmarket in the County of Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i. e. factories not having mechanical power)	5	3	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) of which Section 7 is enforced by the L. A. (i. e. factories having mechanical power)	70	12	1	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L. A. (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	75	15	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
			To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	1	-	-	-

